Sale of underweighed item

†1747. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the sale of underweighed items has become order of the day;

(b) if so, whether Government have launched any campaign to stop this;

(c) the action taken at present against the persons/companies resorting to underweighing; and

(d) whether such actions are adequate to deter them from committing such crime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) A news item published in the Tribune recently under the caption "underweight ghee and oil packets being openly sold: Consumer" was brought to the notice of the Depatment.

(b) and (c) Immediately, an intensive inspection campaign for protecting the interest of consumers was launched through out the country to detect underweight articles and take action against the violators as per the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 and the Standards of Weight and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977. During inspections, representatives of Voluntary Consumer Organizations were also associated to provide transparency and also create a greater awareness among the consumers. 686 cases were booked against defaulters as on date.

(d) It has been reported that no subsequent case of repeat offence has been observed.

Pesticides in mineral water

1748. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any licenses of Mineral Water Companies were cancelled after pesticides were found in bottled mineral water;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.